

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 26, 1878

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Can., March 26th, 78. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

I hope you are having less trouble with your English Patent than Mr. Hubbard has in the States and I in Canada. I issued an advisory word of "Caution" against infringements, and now I am printing a circular threatening proceedings against infringers. The Gold Stock Co. in New York are sending their telephones to Canada and we have also native pirates. I fear there will be no avoiding expensive law-suits. I think it will be our policy to reduce the charge for leases and so lessen the inducements to infringe. I believe that a strict reading of the Canadian Patent Act will compel us after two years to sell instead of lease. The specifications sent by Mr. Roosevelt were unaccompanied by the drawings and for want of them we have not been able to apply for a new Patent. Mr. Williams has written repeatedly for them to Mr. Pollock but as yet without effect. Mr. Cassils of Montreal (Dist. Tel. Co.) was here last week. He reports Duquet's interloping as the cause of their having done so little business in the Province of Quebec. Do you consider the new form of telephone an improvement? Could not the same magnets be used for telephone and call-bell and the instruments be combined in one? Our great difficulty hitherto has been the want of a cheap and reliable call. Try whether you cannot devise a compound call-telephone by using one magnet for both purposes. The instruments might not perhaps be portable but flexible tubes could be used to enable one to listen conveniently with both ears. Mr. Cassils was greatly struck with my quartette arrangement of tubes for a single telephone which he is to introduce in Montreal. Have you tried this? I must change the subject. We quite long to see a letter from yourself. Hand over business writing to your Secretary but don't delegate home communications. They should now be all the longer and more frequent instead of fewer and more stinted than ever! We read dear Mabel's letters with great pleasure. I have only room to add, much love to you both!

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Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.